

To: Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]
From: Yogi, David
Sent: Tue 8/18/2015 12:51:22 AM
Subject: FYI INTERNAL - since you're waiting.....

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The morning of August 17, one U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employee, four EPA contractors, and two Coast Guard members inspecting water tanks providing alternative agricultural and livestock water for Navajo community members impacted by San Juan River closures due to the recent Gold King Mine release were physically threatened by a community member in Shiprock, N.M.

In a separate incident later that day, two EPA employees sampling water San Juan River water were physically threatened by the same community member and two other individuals.

As a safety precaution, EPA immediately recalled all employees from field activities in the Shiprock area and notified the Navajo Nation police. Until this issue is resolved with local authorities, EPA has temporarily discontinued water distribution activities in the Shiprock area.

Community members threatening personnel expressed concern over the alternative water provided to residents by EPA.

Water distributed by EPA and BIA was provided by the Bloomfield Utility Department, the municipal water utility company for the City of Bloomfield, N.M. The City of Bloomfield's water was unaffected by the Gold King Mine release. When distribution resumes, EPA will source all water from permitted water sources on Navajo Nation.

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